THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Import of plastic wastes/scrap is regulated by the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992 and the Public Notice No. 392 (PN)/92-97 dated 1st January, 1997 issued by the Ministry of Commerce. As per the notification and notice, except PET waste/scrap, import of all types of plastic wastes/scrap is permitted against a license issued by the Director General, Foreign Trade.

In respect of 100% Export-Oriented Units (EOUs) and units in Export Processing Zones (EPZ) the concerned Board of Approval is required to keep the Public Notice in view before grant of approval for imports.

Non-compliance of National regulations by companies in Denmark with regard to export of plastic wastes and scrap to India has been brought to the notice of the Government.

The Public Notice permits of plastic wastes/scrap conforming to specifications laid down in the notice to actual users only. *Inter-alia* such actual users are required to possess facility for recycling such scrap/waste.

Indian Board for Wildlife

1371. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 4326, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 31st August, 2001 and state:

(a) the decision taken at the recently held meeting of Indian Board for Wildlife; and

(b) the steps taken to implement those decisions?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The Indian Board for Wild Life at its meeting held on 21st January, 2002 recommended that wild life and forestry should be declared as priority sector at the National level. The details of the Wild Life Conversation Strategy 2002 adopted by the Board are at Statement-I *(See below)* The Wildlife Action Plan, 2002-2016 was also approved at this meeting. The salient features of the plan are at Statement-II. *(See below)*

(b) The "Wildlife Conversation Strategy-2002" and the Wildlife Action Plan 2002-2016 have been sent to the Chief Secretaries of the States and Union terriotries for compliance. These have also been taken up with the Planning Commission for facilitating early implementation.

Statement-I

The Details of the Wildlife Conservation Stretegy-2002 adopted by the Indian Board for Wildlife

1. Wildlife and forests shall be declared priority sector at the national level for which funds should be earmarked.
2. Law enforcement agencies must ensure that those engaged in poaching, illicit trade in wildlife and wildlife products, destruction of their habitat, and such other illegal activities are given quick and deterrent punishment.
3. We should fully tap the potential in wildlife tourism and at the same time take care that it does not have adverse impact in wildlife and protected areas. The revenue earned from increased tourism should be used entirely to augment available resources for conservation.
4. Protecting interests of the poor and tribals living around protected areas should be handled with sensitivity and with maximum participation of the affected people. They should have access to the minor forest produce, in the forest outside of national parks and sanctuaries. Employment and means generation for these people is crucial for maintaining symbiosis between the forests, wildlife and the people. People should be encouraged to take up afforestation and conservation in new areas.
5. While strengthening protective measures against traditional threats to wildlife, we should also respond to newer threats such as toxic chemicals and pesticides.
6. There should be greater governmental as well as societal recognition and support for the many non-governmental organizations engaged in wildlife conservation. Mainstream media to better highlight their activities as also successes of governmental initiative that have worked.
7. Creatively produced Television Programmes on wildlife and ecology are wildely appreciated by young and old as seen from the popularity of dedicated T.V. channels like, Discovery, National Geographic and Animal Planet. It proposed that Prasar Bharti and other private channels alongwith with agencies like WWF for Nature should collaborate and increase original Indian content in different languages on our television.
8. No diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes for critical and ecologically fragile wildlife habitat shall be allowed.

9. Lands falling within 10 kms. of the boundaries of National Parks and Sanctuaries should be notified as Eco-fragile zones under section 3(v) of the Environment (Protection) Act and Rule 5 Sub-rule 5(viii) & (x) of the Environment (Protection) Rules.

10. Removal of encroachments and illegal activities from within forest lands and Protected Areas.

11. No commercial monoculture to replace natural forests.

12. The settlement of rights in National Parks and Sanctuaries should not be used to exclude or reduce the areas that are crucial and integral part of the wildlife habitat.

13. More than 2000 vacant posts in the frontline staff of Protected Areas shall be filled immediately and provided basic infrastructure for efficient discharge of duties. Ban on recruitment of staff against vacant post should be lifted on lines with the Police Department. Innovative initiative such as redeployment of surplus employees in other departments, hiring local people on voluntary or honorarium basis, raising donations from business houses and other members of the public in return for a greater role for them in implementing programmes need to be explored.

14. Every protected area should be managed by forest officers trained in wildlife management.

15. Mitigation measures for human-animal conflict and mechanism for crop insurance, as also expeditious disbursement of *ex-gratia* payments should be instituted by States.

16. Forest Commission should be set-up to look into restructuring, reform and strengthening the entire forest set up and affiliated institutions in the country.

17. A working group shall be constituted to monitor implementation of Wildlife Action-Plan.

Statement-II

Salient features of National Wildlife Action Plan

National Wildlife Action- Plan is a comprehensive document highlighting the importance of conservation of natural eco-systems for sustained availability of water and meeting the livelihood needs of the people. The Action-Plan gives in detail the action required and priority projects that are crucial for effective

conservation of wildlife. The broad parameters covered under the Action-Plan are:—

1. Strengthening and Enhancing the Protected Area Network.
2. Effective management of Protected Areas.
3. Conservation of Wild and Endangered Species and their Habitats.
4. Restoration of degraded habitats outside Protected Areas.
5. Control of Poaching, Taxidermy and illegal trade in wild animals and plant species.
6. Monitoring and Research.
7. Human resource development and personnel planning.
8. Ensuring peoples participation in wildlife conservation.
9. Conservation awareness and education.
10. Wildlife tourism.
11. Domestic legislation and international conventions.
12. Enhancing financial allocation for ensuring sustained fund flow to the wildlife sector.
13. Integration of national Wildlife Action-Plan with other sectoral programmes.

Villages inside Simlipal Tiger Reserve Core Area

1372. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) how many villages are present inside the Simlipal Tiger Reserve Core Area in Orissa;

(b) what proposals are being pursued for resettlements of these villages outside the Reserve, the unspent amount for such resettlement, lying in balance as on date unutilised and reasons therefor;

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to save the Great Indian Bustard from extinction; and

(d) which are the major sanctuaries for the Bustard?